The Honorands of
the 1998 Commencement

Bowdoin College

Jef D. Boeke
Doctor of Science

Jef D. Boeke, of the Bowdoin Class of 1976, is a premier scientist whose research into anti-viral and anti-cancer technology has helped in the battle against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Boeke is a professor and geneticist in the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He has discovered and patented an anti-viral technology that creates a hybrid gene capable of destroying the HIV virus when transferred into infected cells. He has published more than 130 articles in professional journals and scientific texts. He has been granted two patents and has four others pending for various methods of protein synthesis and transposition.

Boeke has been an active participant in professional organizations and affiliated groups for 15 years. He has served on the grant review panel of the American Cancer Society since 1977 and has been a member since 1992 of the scientific advisory board of Avigen Inc., based in Alameda, California. He is an editorial board member for *Molecular and Cellular Biology* and a past member of the Medical School Council. He also serves as an ad hoc member of the National Institutes of Health study sections and as a reviewer for the National Science Foundation. He is a member of the Genetics Society of America, the American Society for microbiology, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

At Bowdoin, Boeke graduated *summa cum laude* with highest departmental honors in biochemistry. He was a James Bowdoin Scholar and won the Donald and Harriet S. Macomber Prize in Biology, given annually to the most outstanding biology student, and the George Wood McArthur Prize, given to the scholarship student with the highest academic standing in the graduating class. He is a member of the Bowdoin chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Hs wife, Suzanne Utzchneider Boeke, is a member of the Bowdoin Class of 1977.

Upon graduation, Boeke was awarded a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to study alpine Andean plants in several South American countries. He earned his doctorate in molecular biology from Rockefeller University in 1982 and was a Helen Hay Whitney Postdoctoral Fellow from 1982 to 1985 at The Whitehead Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1986, he joined Johns Hopkins as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1990 and full professor in 1995. From 1990 to 1995, he was a recipient of an American Cancer Society Faculty Research Award.